

K-12 Finance Study Outline

House Education and Appropriations Committee Workgroup

Purpose: To acquire a foundation of knowledge that will allow the Legislature to address the question of whether our K-12 education finance structure is consistent with the state's education policies, including the goals of education reform.

The Policy Framework

Basic Education

- Constitutional, legal and statutory framework

Education Reform

- What is it and how has it changed the way we approach education?

Current Funding System

State Funds

- Basic education programs vs. other programs
- State funding formulas
- Categorical Programs
- Compensation
- Per student revenues to districts

Local Operating Revenues and Levy Equalization

Federal Funds

- How much and for what?
- Is the funding coordinated with similar state programs?
- What kinds of discretion does the state have over how the money is allocated and spent?

Spotlight on Selected Categorical Programs - Programs targeted to special student groups or education reform

- Special Education
- Learning Assistance Program/Remediation
- Bilingual Education
- Education Reform

Insights from prior studies conducted or commissioned by the Legislature

- JLARC Special Education Study 1995, 2000
- JLARC Education Finance Study 1999
- Levy Equalization Studies 1998 and 2002
- WSIPP Learning Assistance Program Study 2002
- The Joint Select Committee on Education Restructuring 1993-2001
- The Joint Legislative Fiscal Study Committee on K-12 Finance (1995)

How can money make a difference?

- Review of data and studies on the correlation between student performance and funding, with an emphasis on the achievement of students who are members of groups that have historically underachieved in education.

Ways of structuring finance systems

Literature review of finance reform models

- Professional judgment model
- Successful schools model
- Other approaches

Approaches taken in other states

- Maryland, Kansas, New York, etc.

- Court Cases in other States
- Teacher Compensation

Putting the Pieces Together

- What are the principles and elements of a finance system that supports the state's education policies, including a performance-based education system?
- How does our current finance system compare with these principles and elements?